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2005 Recreation fees and schedule

PITTSBURGH – This news release summarizes rates and dates of availability for family and group camping areas and facilities at day use areas at lakes managed by the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the 2005 recreation season.

Many campsites at four Pittsburgh District lakes – Berlin Lake, Shenango River Lake, Tionesta Lake and Youghiogheny River Lake – can be reserved in advance through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS), an interagency one-stop center for recreation reservations. Reservations can be made up to 240 days before arrival by calling the NRRS toll-free at 1-877-444-6777 or on their web site www.ReserveUSA.com. Campsites at all other Pittsburgh District lakes, as well as other campsites at Berlin, Shenango, Tionesta and Youghiogheny, are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

All user fees are based on the facilities provided, the extent of regular maintenance required and the direct or indirect amount of federal expenditures. Fees charged by other public agencies for the use of similar facilities and fees charged at comparable private campgrounds are factors in determining the appropriate fees to be charged.

Those who would like to experience camping, but are reluctant to make a significant investment in equipment beforehand, may want to spend one or several days/nights at a Rent-A-Tent campsite. Rent-A-Tent sites are available at Shenango Lake at a rate of \$30 per night. The Rent-A-Tent campsite includes use of a 9-foot by 12-foot cabin tent (sleeps 5-6), a 10-foot by 12-foot dining fly, a 36-quart cooler, sleeping pads, electric camp stove, camp light, picnic table, fire ring and fire extinguisher. While reservations are accepted at these sites, some restrictions apply. Interested campers should contact Shenango Lake at 724-962-7746 for details.

Golden Age and Golden Access Passports, which allow holders to receive a 50 percent reduction on camping fees at Corps-operated campgrounds, are available at Corps' lakes where fees are charged. Golden Age Passports are available for a one-time fee of \$10 to citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. who are age 62 or older. The passport must be applied for in person and proof of age must be presented. The Corps issues Golden Access Passports for blind and disabled individuals who meet the established qualifications. Golden Access Passports are available free of charge to those meeting the citizenship and disability criteria. Proof of medically determined blindness or permanent disability or eligibility for receiving benefits under federal law must be shown.

The fee for reserving a picnic shelter at a Corps-managed recreation area varies between \$35 and \$60 per day, depending on the location, day of the week and availability of electricity. Crooked Creek Lake also offers \$30 to \$35 half-day reservations on weekends and holidays due to the popularity of their shelters. Shelter reservations are available by contacting the Park Office except at

Berlin Lake where reservations for the Mill Creek Day Use Area Pavilion can only be made through the NRRS. Picnic shelters at Pittsburgh District lakes are open to the public at no charge other than when they are reserved.

The following is a list of campground opening and closing dates and fees for the 2005 camping season:

Project	Campground	Date Opening	Date Closing	Class	Without Electric	With Electric	Rent-A-Tent
Berlin Lake	Mill Creek Campground ¹ (in Mill Creek Recreation Area)	May 18	Sept 7	A	\$13-\$17	\$18-\$22	
Crooked Creek Lake	Crooked Creek Campground	May 20	Sept 5	B	\$10		
	Crooked Creek Group Area	May 1	Sept 30	C	\$45/weekend		
East Branch Clarion River Lake	East Branch Campground	April 15	Oct 16	B	\$12	\$15	
Loyalhanna Lake	Bush Area	May 20	Oct 16	B	\$12	\$18	
	Bush Primitive Group Area	May 20	Oct 16	B	\$16		
Shenango River Lake	Shenango Recreation Area ¹	May 6	Sept 25	A	\$15-\$17 Multi-unit site: \$27	\$20	\$30
Tionesta Lake	Outflow Campground ²	May 23	Sept 24	B	\$10 Off-season: No charge		
	Tionesta Recreation Area ¹	May 23	Sept 24	A	NA	\$25 (includes water & sewer)	
	Kellettville Campground ²	May 23	Sept 24	C	\$10 Off-season: No charge		
Youghiogheny River Lake	Outflow Area ²	Apr 14 Sep 12	May 19 Oct 10		Spring/Fall Self Registration: \$12 Bike/Hike site: \$3 per person Off-season: No charge	Spring/Fall Self Registration: \$14 Full Hookup: \$20 Group sites: 1A: \$35 2A: \$15-\$35 Off-season: No charge	
	Outflow Area ^{1,2}	May 20	Sept 11	A	\$16 Bike/Hike site: \$6 per person	\$20 Full Hookup: \$35 Group sites: 1A: \$35-\$110 2A: \$30-\$70	
	Tub Run ¹	May 20	Sept 5	A	\$16-\$17	\$20	
	Mill Run Campground ²	May 1	Sept 12	C	Self Registration: \$12 Off-season: No charge		

¹ NRRS

² Open all year with reduced facilities during the off-season. Dates shown are fee collection periods.

An additional fee of \$3 per person will be charged to visitors of campers at the Mill Creek Recreation Area campground at Berlin Lake and Shenango Recreation Area campground at Shenango Lake. Section 16 U.S.C. 4601, *Outdoor Recreation Programs*, authorizes the charging of a user fee to visitors who are using the specialized facilities within the camping area. Fees for extra vehicles are charged at some campgrounds and fees may also be charged for the use of the dump stations where applicable.

A change in the number of camping units allowed at the Tub Run Campground at Youghiogheny River Lake will be in effect for the 2005 recreation season. Two tents, or one tent plus one trailer, are permitted per campsite. Occupation by more than two camping units per site is prohibited. This policy has previously been adopted at Youghiogheny's Outflow Campground and will remain in effect at that area.

In addition to the above campground openings, the Corps will be collecting Recreation Day User Fees at the following recreation areas in 2005:

Project	Area	Facilities	Dates
Berlin Lake	Mill Creek Recreation Area	Boat Launch	May 18 – Sept 7
Crooked Creek Lake	Beach	Swim Beach	May 28 – Sept 5
East Branch Clarion River Lake	East Branch Launch	Boat Launch	April 15 – Oct 16
Loyalhanna Lake	Bush Recreation Area	Boat Launch	April 15 – Oct 19
Shenango River Lake	Mahaney Recreation Area	Boat Launch	May 6 – Sept 5
	Shenango Recreation Area		
	Clark Area Recreation Area		
Tionesta Lake	Tionesta Launch Area	Boat Launch	May 23 – Sept 25
Youghiogheny River Lake	Somerfield North	Boat Launch	May 1 – Sept 30
	Mill Run Recreation Area	Boat Launch	May 1 – Sept 30
		Swim Beach	May 27 – Sept 30
	Spillway Recreation Area	Boat Launch	May 1 – Sept 30
		Swim Beach	May 27 – Sept 30

A fee of \$1 per person, up to \$4 per vehicle, will be charged at developed Corps-operated swimming beaches. A fee of \$3 will be charged at boat launch ramps having one or more of the following: restrooms, security lighting, picnicking facilities or other developed recreation facilities. Fees will be collected using a combination of honor boxes and gate collectors. There will be no fee for children under 12 years of age. Campground users will not pay day use fees in addition to camping fees. The dates listed above summarize when fees will be collected but individual recreation areas may be available for use before and after those dates at no charge to the public.

A Corps of Engineers Annual Day Use Pass may be purchased for \$30. This annual pass permits the holder and accompanying passengers in a vehicle to use all boat launching ramps and swimming beaches at Corps-operated areas without further charges. The pass has been redesigned for 2005 and is now a plastic tag which hangs from the rear view mirror. Attached to the tag are stickers representing the month and year in which the pass was purchased. Passes are now good for 12 months from the date of purchase. New stickers may be attached to the same tag in subsequent years. Duplicate passes will no longer be sold. The month and year stickers are to be affixed directly to the vehicle for open vehicles and those lacking a rear view mirror. Golden Age and Golden Access Passports will also be honored at day use areas, allowing the pass holder to purchase one annual pass for half price or use the day use facilities, together with their guests, for half the fee.

Deficit reduction legislation, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, gives the Corps authorization to collect day use fees. The funds will be used to help pay operations and maintenance costs in the Corps' recreation program.